

INLET PORT PLUG FOR INFLATABLE THERMAL BLANKETS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 *sub ay* ^{ay} The present invention is a method and apparatus for conveniently and removably sealing inlet ports within an inflatable thermal blanket. In accordance with the present invention a generally planar sheet of material having a plurality of resilient side extensions extending from a central body is used to close an inlet port within an inflatable thermal blanket. In accordance with the preferred invention, the generally circular portion of the central body has a diameter which is slightly smaller than the diameter of the inlet port. Preferably, for extensions extend from the central body each extension being generally circular. Each extension is preferably formed from the same material used to form the central body, and is sufficiently resilient to be easily flexed and to return to an essentially coplanar sheet when released. In accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention, one such extension is inserted into the inlet port, the central body and opposing extension are then bent to allow the opposing extension to be inserted into the inlet port. The result is two opposing extensions extending beyond the diameter of the inlet port at the interior of the port, and two opposing extensions extending beyond the diameter of the inlet port at the exterior of the port.